

Amendments to the Claims:

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) An insulating cover assembly in combination with an existing attic access, the combination comprising:

an existing attic access having a surrounding structure integral to a ceiling of a building and providing access to said building's attic, said existing attic access defining an existing attic access opening therethrough and having an existing trap door for closing said existing attic access opening;

an insulating cover placed on said surrounding structure and including:

a continuous frame having spaced side walls and spaced end walls and which frame is formed of a free standing insulating material having an upper surface and a lower surface, said frame defining a frame opening therethrough, said frame opening being aligned with ~~for alignment with~~ said existing attic access opening, said frame being of a size and configuration so as to enclose ~~surround~~ said existing attic access opening when said lower surface is supported on said surrounding structure; and

a removable closure member formed of a free standing insulating material, said removable closure member not being bonded to any portion of said continuous frame and said removable closure member including:

a depending central portion, said depending central portion being sized and shaped to fit within said frame opening defined by said frame and frictionally and snugly engage each of said side walls and said end walls of said frame inside said frame opening to create a first continuous seal with said frame when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in a covering relationship with respect to said frame opening defined by said frame; and

an upper portion forming flanges, said flanges extending laterally outward relative to said depending central portion, said flanges being sized and shaped to frictionally and snugly engage an upper surface of each of said side walls and end

walls of said frame to create a second continuous seal with said frame when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said opening defined by said frame;

wherein said closure member is not hinged to and detaches from said frame when said first continuous seal and said second continuous seal are broken by a force applied to said removable closure member through said frame opening, leaving said frame enclosing said existing attic access opening; and

wherein said first seal and said second seal are generally orthogonal to each other when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said opening defined by said frame.

15-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) An insulating cover assembly in combination with an existing attic access, the combination comprising:

an existing attic access defining an existing attic access opening therethrough and having an existing trap door for closing said opening;

a continuous frame having spaced side walls and spaced end walls and which frame is formed of a free standing insulating material, said frame defining a frame opening therethrough for alignment with said existing attic access opening, said frame being of a size and configuration so as to surround said existing attic access opening, said frame also including The combination of claim 14 in which said frame includes a generally continuous depending portion extending downward from each of said side and end walls, said generally continuous depending portions being configured so as to extend into said existing attic access opening and to frictionally seal to said existing attic access opening; and

a removable closure member formed of a free standing insulating material, said removable closure member not being bonded to any portion of said continuous frame, and said removable closure member including:

a depending central portion, said depending central portion being sized and shaped to fit within said opening defined by said frame and frictionally and snugly engage said side walls and end walls of said frame inside said opening to create a first continuous seal with said frame when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said opening defined by said frame; and

an upper portion forming flanges, said flanges extending laterally outward relative to said depending central portion, said flanges being sized and shaped to frictionally and snugly engage an upper surface of said frame to create a second continuous seal with said frame when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said opening defined by said frame;

wherein said closure member is not hinged to and detaches from said frame when said first continuous seal and said second continuous seal are broken by a force applied to said removable closure member through said frame opening; and

wherein said first seal and said second seal are generally orthogonal to each other when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said opening defined by said frame.

18-20 (cancelled)

21. (previously presented) The combination of claim 17 including at least one handle mounted to extend from a lower surface of said depending central portion of said removable closure member so as to be accessible within said frame opening when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said frame opening.

22. (previously presented) The combination of claim 14 including at least one handle extending from a lower surface of said removable closure member so as to be accessible within said frame opening when said removable closure member is positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said frame opening.

23. (cancelled)

24. (previously presented) The combination of claim 14 in which said removable closure member includes at least first and second components each having opposing edges which are configured to cooperatively engage one another to create a seal therebetween, and means for adhesively securing said opposing edges so as to form a unified removable closure member.

25. (previously presented) The combination of claim 14 wherein said removable closure member and said frame are coated with a fire retardant material.

26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) The combination of claim 14 in which said insulating material of said removable closure member and said frame is an expanded polymeric material.

28. (previously presented) The combination of claim 14 wherein said trap door comprises a hatch.

29. (previously presented) The combination of claim 14 wherein said trap door is attached to a fold down attic access ladder.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The combination of claim 14 wherein said removable closure member comprises two pieces, the two pieces having a seal between them when positioned on said frame in covering relationship with respect to said frame opening.

32. (previously presented) The combination of claim 31 wherein said two pieces are adhered together.